

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for hoisting and transporting a disabled person, including a frame supported by swivelling wheels, the frame including a substantially horizontally extending top section provided with substantially vertically extending end sections extending downwards at opposite ends of the top section, respectively, where the apparatus is arranged with a hoisting mechanism for supporting and hoisting the disabled person in a sling seat in the space under the top section and between the end sections of the frame, **characterised in that** most of the space from a base and upwards under the top section and between the end sections is accessible from at least one side of the frame, and that the top section of the frame is extendible in horizontal direction in such a way that the distance between the end sections can be adjusted.
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2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the top section of the frame is telescoping in the direction of extension.
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3. Apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the top section of the frame is provided with at least one actuator which is arranged for adjusting the distance between the end sections.
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4. Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the at least one actuator is powered by a motor connected to a rechargeable battery which is mounted at one of the end sections.
5. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the hoisting mechanism is constituted by two lifting arms that are pivotably mounted at the top section of the frame, and where each lifting arm is arranged with an actuator between arm and an adjacent end section of the frame.
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6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein a pair of actuators for pivoting the arms are driven by one motor, the motor being powered by a rechargeable battery mounted on the adjacent end section of the frame.
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7. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein the frame is adapted for

mounting a detachable, battery-powered driving unit with drive wheels.

8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the means for mounting the driving unit are constituted by a pair of hooks provided on an end section of the frame for engaging a transverse bar provided on the driving unit, and by attaching means provided below the hooks on the end section concerned and below the transverse bar on the driving unit for holding driving unit and end section together.
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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the attaching means is a spring-biased snap lock consisting of a male locking member that may engage a female member with spring-biased retainer means.
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10. Apparatus according to any preceding claim, wherein each end section is provided with at least one transverse bend along a horizontal line, so that the geometry of each end section provides an offset of the position of the pair of swivelling wheels of the end section from a vertical plane passing through the line of intersection of the end section and the top section.
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